

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (d) The need for suitable measures for the regulation for plantation companies has been engaging the attention of the Government.

As per available information the number of plantation companies registered during the last three years with the Registrars of Companies is given in the Statement attached. Information in respect of such companies which have mobilised funds is not maintained as such funds do not fall within definition of "deposits", as per the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975.

No specific Government permission is required to start such mobilisation of money under the existing provisions of the Companies Act, 1956.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has in April, 1996 constituted a committee to study the growth rate and economics of commercial plantations in this regard.

The working Draft of the Companies Bill submitted by the Working Group has incorporated a wider definition of "Securities" to cover "units" issued by the plantation companies with a view to regulating them. The Government is likely to introduce the new Companies Bill in the current Session of Parliament in this regard.

Number of Plantation Companies Registered with the Registrar of Companies during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

ROC Office	No. of Plantation Companies
1	2
Calcutta	5
Jammu	10
Jalandhar	142
Ahmedabad	349
Hyderabad	98
Ernakulam	95
Bangalore	177
Pondicherry	0
Coimbatore	50
Gwalior	202
Cuttack	79
Patna	119
Jaipur	73

1	2
Kanpur	369
Chennai	259
Goa	21
Delhi & Haryana	779
Mumbai	772
	3599

1. There is no break-up of figures of companies which invited funds from the public and these which did not mobilise funds from the public.

Gold Import Through Airports

1764. SHRI BHAKTA CHARNA DAS :

SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI :

SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of gold imported through each of the international airports in India as per the new gold import policy to import 5kg/10kg. of gold on payment of customs duty by NRIs since the permission given by the Government, year-wise;

(b) whether any irregularity in operation of this scheme has come to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the extent to which this policy of gold import is likely to reduce the prices of gold in the domestic market and smuggling of gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The import of gold by NRIs has permitted w.e.f. 28.2.92. The year-wise quantum and value of gold imported through each of the Airports is as per Statement attached.

(b) to (d) No major irregularities in operation of this scheme has come to the notice of the Government.

(e) Availability of gold in domestic market is an important factor in reduction of its price.

There has been reduction in price of gold compared to earlier years. It is also reported that the seizures of gold smuggled into India is steadily decreasing after introduction of the scheme, signifying reduction in smuggling.

Statement
Quantity and Value of Gold Imported under NRI Scheme
From 1992 to 1997

AIRPORT	YEAR											
	1992		1993		1994		1995		1996		1997 (upto June, 97)	
	QTY	VAL.	QTY.	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY	VAL.	QTY.	VAL	QTY.	VAL.
AHD	11.600	49	20.650	91	687.000	3192	19676.396	95322	3833.682	19896	1367.131	6537
DEL	9747.000	41390	21468.000	94160	29622.000	137635	83547.083	404742	56396.820	292688	32035.388	153186
BOM	46706.000	198335	46089.000	202155	49054.000	227924	1830.330	8867	59013.294	306267	64061.564	306328
MAD	17411.000	73935	18461.000	80973	24820.000	115323	40405.843	219968	53700.100	278692	25721.537	122994
CAL	61.900	263	342.100	1501	103.300	480	57.876	280	68.331	355	1149.602	5497
TRIV	5536.000	23508	6430.000	28203	3323.000	15440	3123.667	15133	3331.490	17290	1588.826	7597
CALC	12693.000	53900	23426.000	102751	50777.000	235929	71074.740	344320	74947.991	388964	51182.796	245223
ORS	32.700	139	22.620	99	23.960	111	3321.243	16090	4387.410	22770	2697.885	12910
TOTAL	92199.200	391519	116259.370	509933	158410.260	736034	228037.178	1104722	255679.118	1326922	179904.779	860263

KEY QTY IN KGS

VALUE IN RS. LAKHS

MRTP Act

1765. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Investigation and Registration, New Delhi has called the attention of all concerned engaged in any trade or service to know if they have entered into any agreements (oral or written) with any party containing any of the restrictive clauses enumerated under Section 33(1) of MRTP Act;

(b) if so, the reasons received thereto by DG(I&R);

(c) the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether it is a fact that many companies like Hindustan Lever, Ponds India Ltd., Nestle India Ltd., Colgate India Ltd. have restricted their authorised stockists to restrict their sales in a given area orally; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The Director General of Investigation and Registration (DGI&R) has called

attention of all concerned engaged in any trade or service to take immediate steps to register with his office under Section 35 of the MRTP Act, 1969 any agreement (oral or written) with any party containing any of the restrictive clauses enumerated under Section 33(1) of the Act. However, no response has been received by the DGI&R so far.

(d) No such case has come to the notice of the DGI&R.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tiny Industries

1766. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government for evolving an Industrial policy, separately for the development of tiny industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tiny industries functioning in the country;